

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 720  
By McLeary

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Buddy Patey for his many accomplishments.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor and commend those citizens who, through their hard work and dedication, have achieved great success in both their personal and professional aspirations; and

WHEREAS, one such notable individual is Mr. Buddy Patey, whose myriad athletic accomplishments have been a credit to his family, friends, and community; and

WHEREAS, adding to his long list of honors and recognitions, Mr. Patey has most recently received the 2003 Officiating Award and on December 9, 2003 was inducted into the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame, as well having been honored by the City of Camden, Tennessee with "Buddy Patey Day" for his contributions to football and service to the youth of the community; and

WHEREAS, a native of Tupelo, Mississippi, Mr. Patey was an outstanding athlete in high school, serving as the Captain of both his high school baseball and football teams; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his impressive athletic skills, he earned a football scholarship to both the University of Mississippi and Union University; after serving with the United States Air Corps in World War II, Mr. Patey chose to attend Union University; and

WHEREAS, playing college football was only the beginning of Mr. Patey's distinguished career in football; a Southeastern Conference Official from 1956-1976, he served as the Chief Umpire and officiated in 7 of the 8 Bowl Games of the era: the Bluebonnet, Gator, Citrus, Cotton, Liberty, Peach and Orange Bowls; and

WHEREAS, traditional SEC rivalries, intersectional games, seven consecutive Alabama-Auburn games, and televised contests, which were critical and very limited at that time, made up the more than 250 collegiate games that Mr. Patey officiated; and

WHEREAS, after retiring from active collegiate fieldwork, Mr. Patey served 21 years as Supervisor of Football Officials for the Ohio Valley Conference, during which time he served nationally as Secretary of the Collegiate Commissioners Association of Football Supervisors and also on the NCAA Football Rules Committee as a member of the Editorial Committee for the NCAA Football Rule Book; and

WHEREAS, in 2000-2001, Mr. Patey traveled throughout the U.S. conducting Rules Clinics and also traveled to Frankfurt, Germany to conduct Officiating Clinics for the German Football Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Patey being ever-mindful of the youth of America, authored *The Illustrated Rules of Football*, an informative children's book which is now in its second edition; and

WHEREAS, for several years he wrote the column *Ask the Ref* for two newspapers as well as hosting a weekly radio and television sports show; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Patey retired as Supervisor of Football Officials for the Ohio Valley Conference in order to accept a position with the SEC as a Technical Advisor for the Football Officiating Program; upon his retirement he was bestowed the title of Ohio Valley Conference Supervisor Emeritus and inducted into the Ohio Valley Conference Hall of Fame, becoming the only official inducted in the Conference's 56 year history; and

WHEREAS, his knowledge has not been limited solely to collegiate football, he has also served for 54 years as a TSSAA Official and Supervisor of High School Officials: Mr. Patey officiated the inaugural TSSAA East/West All Star Game and was one of two individuals twice chosen as a referee for event; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Patey's tenure as a TSSAA Official, he officiated over 500 high school games, 17 high school Bowl Games, and 5 State Championships; he served as the Coordinator of Football Officials for the TSSAA Championships for 17 years and is currently the Coordinator for the NAIA College Championship which is staged in Savannah, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Patey has received myriad honors including induction into the Jackson-Madison County Sports Hall of Fame, the Tennessee Secondary Schools Hall of Fame, the Ohio Valley Conference Hall of Fame, and the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, an esteemed member of his community, Mr. Patey has served as Vice-Mayor of the City of Jackson, been recognized by the Jaycees as Jackson's Young Man of the Year, and has been a recipient of the Lawrenceburg Quarterback Club Officiating Award; and

WHEREAS, through his accomplishments, both on and off the field, Mr. Buddy Patey has exemplified the spirit of a true Tennessean and is a source of pride to his family, community, and this great State; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate and fitting to commend Mr. Buddy Patey on his outstanding career as a sports official and his laudable service to the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and honor Buddy Patey for his meritorious accomplishments, congratulate him upon his receipt of the 2003 Officiating Award and his induction into the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame, and join with him in celebrating "Buddy Patey Day".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.